

IN THE CLAIMS

1-18 (canceled)

19. (new) A metal-ceramic composite for friction/slide application, comprising a base composition comprising at least one metallic phase in a proportion of 30 to 75 vol.% and at least one non-metallic inorganic component in a proportion of 25 to 70 vol.% as a ceramic material the composite having a thermal conductivity greater than 50 W/mK, a flexural strength of about 300 MPa and a modulus of elasticity of at least 160 GPa.

20. (new) A metal-ceramic composite according to claim 19, wherein the composition contains 40 to 60 vol.% of Al_2O_3 and 60 to 40 vol.% of Al.

21. (new) A metal-ceramic composite according to claim 20, wherein the thermal conductivity is greater than 50 W/mK, the flexural strength is about 300 MPa and the modulus of elasticity is about 160 GPa.

22. (new) A metal-ceramic composite according to claim 19, wherein the composition contains 60 to 80 vol.% of SiC and 40 to 20 vol.% of Al.

23. (new) A metal-ceramic composite according to claim 22, wherein the thermal conductivity is at least 180 W/mK, the flexural strength is about 300 MPa and the modulus of elasticity is about 200 GPa.

24. (new) A metal-ceramic composite according to claim 19, wherein the surfaces in contact with a friction/slide partner have an Ra value below 1 μm .

25. (new) A sliding ring comprising a metal-ceramic composite of claim 19.

26. (new) A slide/friction pairing comprising a metal-ceramic composites according to claim 1, wherein the pairings comprise one partner consisting of a metal-ceramic composite (MCC) and one partner consisting of MCC, carbon, Al_2O_3 , SSiC , hard metal (HM), ZTA (Al_2O_3 and ZrO_2) or plastic, optionally fibre-reinforced.

27. (new) A slide/friction pairing according to claim 26, selected from the group consisting of MCC/carbon, MCC/ Al_2O_3 , MCC/ SSiC , MCC/MCC, MCC/HM and MCC/ZTA ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{ZrO}_2$).

28. (new) A slide/friction pairing according to claim 26, selected from the group consisting of MCC/carbon, MCC/ Al_2O_3 , MCC/ SSiC , MCC/MCC, MCC/HM and MCC/plastic, optionally fibre-reinforced.

29. (new) A slide/friction pairing according to claim 26, selected from the group consisting of MCC/carbon, MCC/ SSiC , MCC/ Al_2O_3 , MCC/MCC, MCC/HM and MCC/ZTA.

30. (new) A slide/friction pairing according to claim 26, selected from the group consisting of MCC/ SSiC , MCC/ Al_2O_3 , MCC/MCC, MCC/HM and MCC/ZTA.

31. (new) The metal-ceramic composite of claim 19, wherein said at least one metallic phase comprises aluminum or an aluminum alloy.

32. (new) The metal-ceramic composite of claim 19, wherein said ceramic material is selected from the group consisting of silicon carbide, aluminum oxide, titanium oxide and a silicate.